

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

We write to express our disappointment regarding the lack of direct assistance to small and mid-size cities through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We are also concerned that the CARES Act does not include a fix to ensure local governments are able to directly access benefits that businesses can receive to help offset the emergency paid leave policies included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

While the CARES Act would provide \$150 billion in emergency aid to states, localities, and tribal governments, cities with populations under 500,000 would not be eligible for this critical assistance. In Orange County, California, there are no cities that meet these criteria. As our local governments are on the front lines of this pandemic by providing critical resources to our constituents, we should make all localities eligible for this essential aid.

Furthermore, while we believe it is important that we extended emergency paid leave provisions to local government employees, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act failed to extend the benefits offered to private entities to help offset the cost of these provisions to local governments. While the proposed House bill would take a positive step toward making our local governments whole, the CARES Act unfortunately lacks any fix to help local governments account for this unanticipated cost.

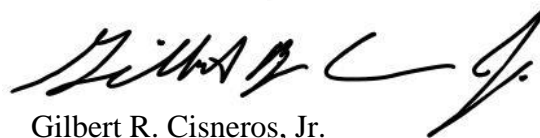
As we continue to work to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and plan for the recovery ahead, we ask that we all keep in mind the needs of small and mid-size cities and advance legislation that will ensure that they are able to continue their vital services for their residents, including our constituents in Orange County.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress




Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress